

TREMEINBOUS TONNAGE SHIPPED FROM MESA

MORMON ADHERENTS PROVEN MANY TIMES LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC

Judge Geo. Crosby, Jr., Former Judge Superior Court Apache County, Contributes Article to Show Patriotic Service of L. D. S.

I am requested to write an article on the Americanism of the Mormon people. I presume this includes the loyalty of the Latter Day Saint or Mormon church.

The Latter Day Saint church teaches that the constitution of the United States is an inspired document and that it is part of the religious duty of its members to be loyal American citizens, as indeed to be loyal citizens of all republics and loyal subjects of all righteous monarchs, and one of its articles of faith says:

"We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law."

The Latter Day Saints in their history of now nearly one hundred years believe that their acts have not belied their teachings.

In the latter thirties these people, then about twelve thousand in number, were driven out of the state of Missouri. The government of that state went so far as to issue an exterminating order by which the people could be exterminated if they did not leave the state. The leaders of the church appealed to President Van Buren for redress for the wrongs they had suffered in that state but the President remarked "Gentlemen, your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you."

The people then fled to Illinois and in five years built up a beautiful city in that state but they were again driven from their homes by armed mobs, composed of American citizens and no government defended them. They left their homes and went into the western wilderness to find another land in which to make other homes. When they were scattered over the prairies of Iowa, with many of their number ill and all living homeless in Indian country, an order came for them to

supply five hundred of their youngest and best men to fight in the war with Mexico. History cannot discover why that order was made when President Polk had already received an enlistment of 225,000 volunteers when he had only called for 75,000, yet in three days the five hundred men were ready and on the march to Ft. Leavenworth. From Ft. Leavenworth they went as infantry to Santa Fe and from Santa Fe to San Diego without a road, without an additional base of supplies. With inadequate teams and old cast-off wagons and arms, they made their way through to San Diego, the hardest infantry march in military history.

The Utah pioneers with the memories of the Missouri exterminating order, of Illinois' heartless expulsion, of President Van Buren's polite refusal, made their way to the valley of the Great Salt Lake which was then Mexican territory and the third day in their new camp they placed an American flag on the most prominent hill afterwards to be known as Ensign Peak.

The war between the sections came on and the Confederacy sought to court Mormon favor in its endeavor to win perhaps the west and if not that of the southwest, but the first telegraph message that ever went from the Mormon capital was addressed from Brigham Young to Abraham Lincoln, assuring him that the Mormons were loyal to the Union though less than four years before Johnston's army had been sent out by President Buchanan against them without cause and without excuse.

In the war with Spain and especially in the trouble with the Philippines that followed, Utah's light artillery, composed largely of Mormons, did splendid service and in the recent European war the Mormons did their share and more than their share.

We do not ask that the world shall look to our war record alone for our Americanism. The Union Pacific railroad followed the track of the Utah pioneers; the Southern Pacific followed the track of the Mormon battalion; members of the Mormon battalion discovered gold in California; the intermountain Mormon settlers developed the system of western irrigation; the western Mormon believes that raising a family and in them to inculcate the principles of loyalty to country, virtue and devotion to God, and this has shown and does show Mormon loyalty in everyday life. Taught as the Mormon people are to believe that the home life is eternal and that family life does not end with this world; knowing that the family is the basis of all civilization, of all governments and of all established orders among men, so do the Mormons believe that American loyalty is based on the same ultimate base, the home and the family.

STURDY L. D. S. PIONEERS HELPED TO SETTLE ALL PARTS OF STATE

Every one familiar with the history of the development of the state of Arizona knows that to the pioneers of the Church of Latter Day Saints have had a great deal to do with the early settlement of the country, and with the steady growth of its industries, particularly agriculture, and stock-raising.

To those unfamiliar with the history of their settlements in Arizona and the hardships endured by the pioneers, the following story on the pioneers of the Mormon church in the state will be of great interest.

Mormon Pioneers

By O. S. Stapley, President of the O. S. Stapley Company, one of the largest dealers in hardware, farm machinery and equipment in the Valley and First Counselor in the Maricopa Stake of the L. D. S. Church

The Lord blessed Jacob of old and called him "Israel," and promised him and his grandfather Abraham, that through them all the nations of the world should be blessed; that Israel should be scattered; and that Israel should be gathered. So we find in reading Genesis and Isaiah.

Agreeable to the principle of gathering, the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, commonly called Mormons, proselyte the world and gather their converts to Zion, that they may be taught the doctrines of the church, and work together as a united band. (Zion is interpreted by The Latter Day Saints as America.)

Exploration

To provide room for the spread of Israel, the leaders of the church have colonized new country and spread over the land the settlements of the saints. Beginning from a central place, Salt Lake City they have gone out north into Canada and the country intervening east and west throughout the Rocky mountain region.

It was for this reason that, about the middle of the nineteenth century, Antonio W. Evans, now one of the twelve apostles of the church, with an expedition of Mormon men, explored all of Arizona. They were very favorably impressed with the country and recommended it as a good place for settlement.

Colony Sent Out

In accordance with this recommendation a few years later a band of colonizers was sent out by President Brigham Young of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, to make settlement.

This, however, was not the first appearance of the Mormons in the state. At Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1846, the president of the United States called upon President Brigham Young to furnish 500 soldiers for the war with Mexico. This was during the great exodus of the Mormon people from the eastern country into the unknown west. In three days there were 500 Mormon men and boys mustered into the service of their country, which depleted the male population very materially, but nevertheless they were always and will always be true to their government. President Young told them in parting that they would make the march desired and would never have to fire a gun, which history will prove correct. They equipped at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, marched through to Santa Fe, from where they followed the Rio Grande, turned west and passed

through Tucson, Sacaton, Ft. Yuma and on to San Diego, California. This was the hardest military march recorded in history because of the fact that there was no supply station between Santa Fe and San Diego. The road made by this famous band became the regularly traveled southern route to California and was finally followed most of the way by the Southern Pacific railroad.

First Settlement

The first settlement was made on what was known as Muddy creek, a small stream running into the Rio Grande river near the place where Arizona, Nevada and Utah join. In 1864 President Brigham Young organized here what was known as the Muddy mission.

About this time Arizona created here its fifth county known as Pabute, with St. Thomas as county seat.

When Nevada became a state this portion of Arizona was attached to it for the purpose of giving the new state an outlet through the Colorado river. The Mormon settlers had some trouble over taxes which they paid in Arizona, which Nevada now claimed, so they gave up this project and returned to Utah.

About 1886 another settlement was made by the Mormons at Call's Landing or Callville, on the Colorado river. This was before the Union Pacific railroad was built, and it was the intention of the Mormon people to have their merchandise brought over the Isthmus of Panama up the Gulf of California and the Colorado river to Callville. The project was, however, only fairly started when it was decided that the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads should be built, so Callville was abandoned.

Explore Colorado

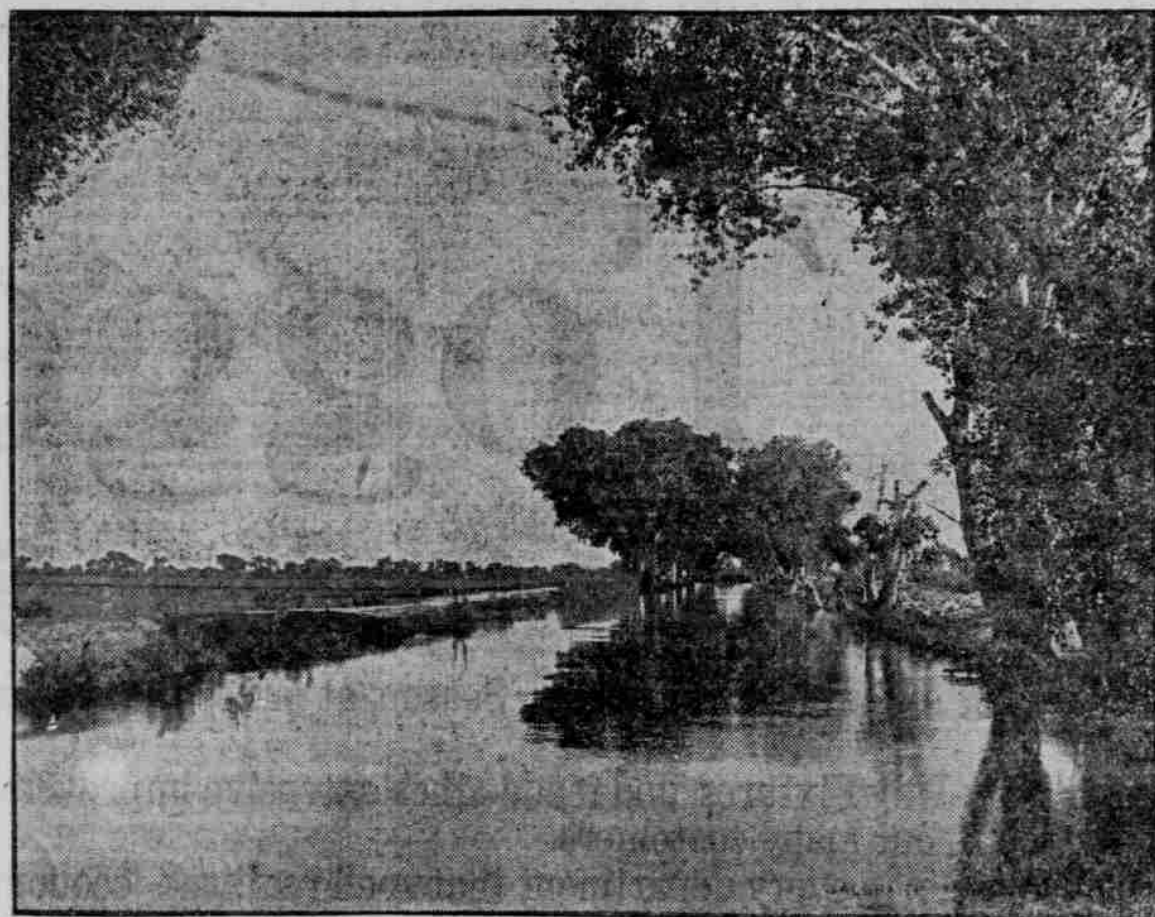
In 1872 President Young sent a colony out to explore and locate settlements on the Little Colorado river. They came to Lee's ferry and traveled up the river, but became discouraged with the country and turned back.

President Young, however, was convinced that this was a good place for settlement, so in 1874 another expedition was sent out along the Little Colorado river, under the leadership of Lot Smith. Mr. Smith was a man of military type, and a very determined leader. Under his leadership the towns of Moencopie, Tuba City, Brigham City, Oued and St. Joseph were established. These settlements were later organized into the Little Colorado Stake, with Smith as president. Sunset was made the headquarters of this stake.

Because of a scarcity of water supply and alkali in the soil and water, the towns of Sunset and Brigham City only lasted ten years, and Moencopie was abandoned earlier; Obed lasted only five years and Tuba City 27. St. Joseph is the only town of this first stage that is still in existence.

William J. Flake became discontented with conditions at St. Joseph and went on a touring expedition over near the White Mountains. Here he purchased a ranch from James Stinson,

Irrigation Canal That Supplies Mesa District



This beautiful water supply canal, bringing down the water that has turned the Mesa district from a desert to a wonderland of wealth, was constructed by the L. D. S. settlers who founded Mesa, and was later taken over by the Water Users. It follows the lines of the prehistoric canal, built centuries ago, when this valley supported a lost civilization—a civilization lost when the desert again claimed the country.

Mr. Stinson thought there was only land and water enough for Mr. Flake and his boys, but Mr. Flake thought differently and decided to lay out three towns on the ranch.

There was a great deal of dispute as to what the chief settlement should be called. Some wanted it called Flake for William J. Flake, and others wanted it called Snow for Erastus Snow, so a compromise was made and the town named Snowflake.

Three miles above Snowflake the town of Taylor was established and about five miles further on Shumway was located under the leadership of Erastus Snow.

Community Life

It was the purpose of these people to raise all they wanted and to make themselves an independent community, so they organized themselves into a ward, known as the United Order, and had everything in common. These among them who were skilled in farming, tilled the soil, and those expert in the art of blacksmithing did the community work of this character, those skilled in the art of building and machine work did the community carpentering and machine work, and so it was in all the industrial pursuits, each man did the work for which he was best suited. All products were collected in one large storehouse and used as needed by the different members of the community.

Sunset was an extremely interesting place. All the cooking was done in one large kitchen and all the inhabitants of the town ate in one large dining room, although each family had its own dwelling house. The town was built in fort style, with all doors leading into an inner court, in which the dining room and kitchen were located.

They continued to live in this way until the community grew large and strong enough so that ordinary community life was possible. In 1878 the first Mormon settlers came to St. Johns under the leadership of Ammon M. Tenney. The place was then largely owned by a man named Sol Barth, who sold it to the Mormon people.

About 1877 the Eastern Arizona Stake was divided and all of the northern settlements were organized into the two stakes. The one called St. Johns and the other Snowflake. Progress at first was very slow, due to a lack of understanding of the new conditions found there. The first year's

crops were almost a complete failure, not enough being raised to supply the needs of the colony. Consequently they were compelled to send teams to Utah for supplies.

Floods Vs. Perseverance

A great deal of damage was done by floods, but they built dikes and levees of logs and stones and persisted in battling with the treacherous streams. A steam saw-mill was established near Ballinger, and a tannery was later established. A grist-mill was built near Sunset and the colony for a time seemed to be fairly prosperous. But two years later another flood occurred and a great deal of damage was done by early and late frosts. The trials were enough to make the hearts of the strongest grow faint, and many did grow discouraged and returned to Utah. However, a majority of these early settlers were strong and resolute men and women and in spite of all hardships they have fought the battle and conquered, and there are now in the northern part of the state about 5,000 Mormon people.

Lehi Settled
About 1879 nine families were organized by President Brigham Young at St. George, Utah, and sent out under the

(Continued on Page Ten)

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